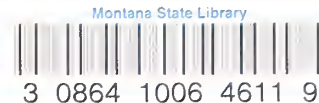


551.48
N7hw
v. 12
Aug 1983

PLEASE RETURN



SEP 01 1983

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
515 E. 2ND AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

SHELVED WITH
PERIODICALS

high water

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SECTION 449-2864

Volume 12.

August 1983

The Federal government has begun a new flood insurance promotion, "IF YOU'RE FLOODED OUT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE WIPED OUT."

We have available a two-sided poster illustrating this idea. The picture shows the above logo with a frustrated man pouring a bucket of water from a window of his home. The reverse side explains the history of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and how to obtain federal flood insurance.

If you would like copies of this poster, contact Tim or Cindy at the Floodplain Management Section.

GOOD FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN RONAN

Earlier this year John Hamill and Tim Pool visited several Montana communities to give information and assistance to residents and public officials. They described the purposes and benefits of the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) as well as the disadvantages of not participating in the program.

The city of Ronan in northwestern Montana was one of those visited. David Erickson, the city planner, explained that the city has not enrolled in NFIP because the floodplain area in Ronan is already being used as a city park. The city has retained ownership of this flood-prone land and has kept it as open space with playground and picnic equipment for public use.

From a floodplain management standpoint, this is a sound and progressive use of flood-prone property. The flood waters can easily and safely pass through the city without affecting or being affected by structures. If flooding should occur, the city's expenses, and those of individual residents, are greatly reduced compared to what they would be if structures were allowed along the banks of the creek that runs through the area.

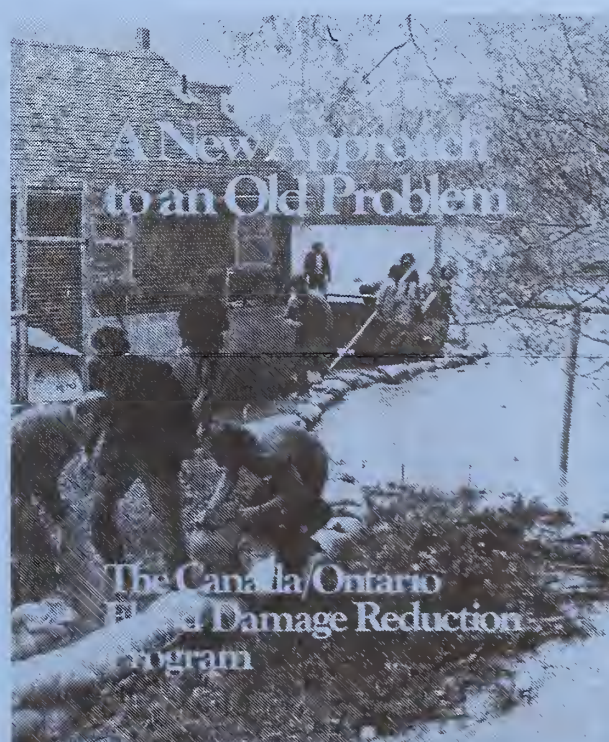
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN CANADA

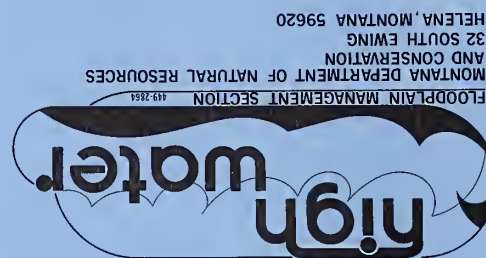
Our Canadian neighbors have a floodplain management program very similar to the one we are enforcing here in the states. Their Flood Damage Reduction Program was implemented in 1976 based on three objectives: (1) to prevent loss of life, (2) to minimize property damage and social disruption, and (3) to encourage a coordinated approach to the use of land and management of water.

Maps depicting the 100-year flood inundation areas are being developed throughout Canada. In the identified floodplain area, flood damage reduction policies are put into effect: (1) no federal or provincial government structures that are vulnerable to flood damage will be placed in the floodplains; (2) funds from government sources (loans and grants) will no longer be available for new structures located in the floodplain; (3) any structures placed in the floodplain after they have received designation will not be eligible for flood disaster assistance; and (4) local officials are encouraged to adopt planning and zoning restrictions on development in the floodplain areas.

Some maps have the floodplain divided into the floodway and flood fringe. The above policies would then apply only to the floodway zone. Development is allowed in the flood fringe if protected from flood damage. Canadian floodplain managers feel the best method of protection is to elevate structures on pads of fill built to or above the 100-year flood elevation.

Although the floodplain management programs of both countries are very similar in their intent and regulation, there is one major difference: the United States government offers flood insurance; Canada does not.





August 1983

Volume 12.

WORKING IN ANOTHER STATE

When a disaster occurs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a program called the Reservist Program, which draws other personnel from outside the federal government for assistance. The people accepted into this program usually do not work for the federal government, but once activated, are considered federal employees.

Tim Pool has been accepted as a reservist and was called to respond when a mudslide blocked the Spanish Fork River, eventually inundating the town of Thistle, Utah in early May.

When Tim arrived at the Disaster Field Office in Provo, south of Salt Lake City, he was assigned the duty of assisting in the development of the 15-day Flood Hazard Mitigation Report. This report is used as a guide by federal, state, and local agencies to coordinate expenditure of their individual recovery assistance funds to reduce future flood losses. The report is required under a December 1980 directive from the Federal Office of Management and Budget.

Members of the Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team represent twelve federal agencies: the Departments of Agriculture, Army, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Transportation; and the Environmental Protection Agency, Small Business Administration, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

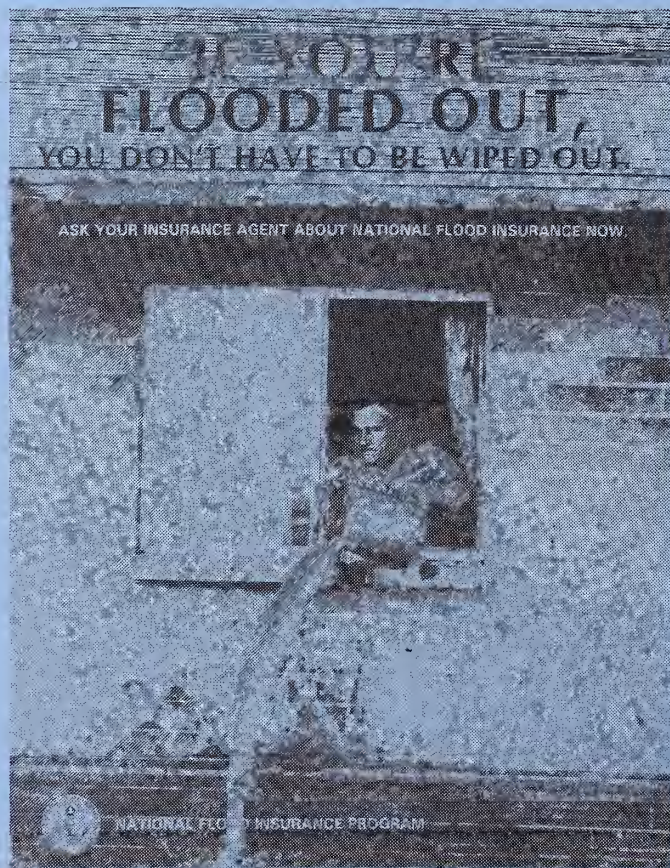
The Team responds to presidentially declared disasters and receives all available information related to the disaster (economic, public and private impact) and develops recommendations to help reduce the severity of future flood impacts and/or reduce the risk to flooding by removing objects (structures) from the hazard areas.

This work is done within 15 days of the disaster so that the recommendations and disposition of money can be incorporated into the cleanup and reconstruction process following the disaster.

Tim gained valuable experience in disaster field work while he was assigned to the Thistle mudslide and the subsequent flooding.

SPRING OR SUMMER?

It could only happen in Montana. Not too long ago it was reported at about noon one day—104° in Glendive and 47° in Helena. The area around Glendive had range fires burning out of control, and people in the Helena area were worrying about what an approximately 3-inch rainfall in a 24-hour period was going to do. This summer shows that the weather is unpredictable and that Montana could have enough rain to produce flooding at any time of the year.



Floodplain Management Section Staff:

John Hamill, Supervisor
Cindy Forgey, Technician/Clerk
Tim Pool, Coordinator, NFIP